

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NEWS RELEASE



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Governor
KENNY C. GUINN
State of Nevada

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**NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REQUESTS A CHANGE TO
EPA OVERSIGHT OF THE YERINGTON MINE UNDER SECTION 106**

CARSON CITY—The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection today requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assume primary responsibility for oversight of the Yerington Mine Site under Section 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

"At this time we believe that designating a lead agency will make certain that the good work and ongoing progress at the site continues," Gov. Kenny Guinn said. "A 106 designation is the best way to protect human health and the environment."

Lyon County, the City of Yerington and the Yerington Paiute Tribe are all in support of NDEP's request for a Section 106 designation.

U.S. Senator Harry Reid, who helped lead a joint effort that resulted in a 106 designation at what was known as the Sparks Tank Farm, also supports the proposal for a designation at the Yerington Mine.

"I'm pleased with Governor Guinn's request for a 106 designation at the Anaconda mine," Senator Reid said. "My hope with this designation is that the mine site will one day be a success story like the Sparks Marina."

Work at the site is currently governed by a March 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among NDEP, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The MOU process provided a forum for technical collaboration and a broad scope of scientific-based plans for remediation.

"Since the signing of the MOU, and due to significant recent progress, the need for a designated lead agency has been magnified by an evolving environmental understanding of the Yerington Mine Site," Leo Drozdoff, NDEP administrator, said. "During the last five years, Atlantic Richfield Company has been very cooperative and responsive in management of interim work plans to address areas of immediate concern and we expect this relationship to continue under Section 106. NDEP also commends BLM for recognizing the increased complexities and for moving the project to their state office which in turn has improved the rate of recent progress at the site."

For more information on the history of the Yerington Mine Site, visit the Bureau of Corrective Actions on the Web at <http://www.ndep.nv.gov/yerington/minesite.htm>.

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